

CREATING THE OFFICE OF LIBRARIAN OF CONGRESS
EMERITUS

MAY 8 (legislative day, APRIL 21), 1987.—Ordered to be printed

Mr. FORD, from the Committee on Rules and Administration,
submitted the following

REPORT

[To accompany S. 1020]

The Committee on Rules and Administration, to which was referred the bill (S. 1020) to create the Office of Librarian of Congress Emeritus, having considered the same, reports favorably thereon without amendment and recommends that the bill do pass.

PURPOSE OF BILL

The bill creates the Office of Librarian of Congress Emeritus and provides that each duly appointed Librarian of Congress shall, upon retirement, be designated Librarian of Congress Emeritus. No funds are required. The Library of Congress will provide office space, parking, and any other administrative support, such as staff and materials, as may be required.

In a statement prepared for submission to the Committee on its consideration of S. 1020, Senator Daniel Patrick Moynihan, after noting that the bill introduced by himself and Senator Hatfield, was also co-sponsored by Senators Ford, Stevens, Pell, DeConcini, and Dodd, stated:

The Librarian of Congress serves in an office of great distinction in this country. Since January 29, 1802, when President Jefferson appointed the first Librarian of Congress, John J. Beckley, there have only been eleven other such appointments.

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Today the Library of Congress is a great institution, indeed a world renowned repository of books and ideas.

The Library operates with a staff of over 5,200 and a budget of \$235 million. It has 535 miles of shelves filled with the largest collection of books in the world. Indeed, the Library of Congress is larger than many major corporations in this country.

In the words of Justice Felix Frankfurter, "What is wanted in the directing head of a great library are imaginative energy and vision. He should be a man who knows books, loves books and makes books . . . only a scholarly man of letters can make a great national library a general place of habitation for scholars." The present Librarian of Congress, Daniel J. Boorstin, is such a man.

Dr. Boorstin's tenure began on November 12, 1975. Within two months of taking office, he initiated a year-long study of the Library, the result of which was a major reorganization of the Library in 1978.

In 1977, with private donations, Dr. Boorstin established the Center for the Book, which sponsors studies, symposia and publications designed to stimulate interest in books and the printed word. In addition, in 1980, he set up the Council of Scholars, which advises the Library on its collections and services. The Council has met twice a year since its inception to keep the Library abreast of book collections available throughout the world, as well as new changes and trends in library services.

In addition, with his usual creativity and ingenuity, Dr. Boorstin initiated "hero luncheons", where the careers and lives of famous people are discussed by friends and colleagues and recorded and placed in the collection of the Library for future use. Some who have been honored in this way are Margaret Mead, Charles Lindbergh, Samuel Eliot Morison, and Richard Rogers.

Under this watch, the new third Library of Congress building, the James Madison Memorial Building was completed and occupied, and with the aid of the Architect of the Capitol and funding from Congress, renovation and restoration of the Jefferson and Adams buildings were undertaken.

Yet, more than these contributions, Daniel Boorstin will be remembered for the type of man he is. A Pulitzer Prize-winning historian, he is a scholar with great vision.

More important, for purposes of this legislation, Dr. Boorstin has chosen to retire while still in good health and with his intellectual vitality undiminished. There is much yet for this prodigious writer to contribute.

By establishing this new office, we will enable the Library and the country to continue to benefit from Dr. Boorstin's work, and the work of his successors in the future.

COMMITTEE ROLLCALL VOTE

In compliance with paragraph 7 (b) and (c) of Rule XXVI of the Standing Rules of the Senate, the record of the rollcall vote in the Committee to report S. 1020 favorably was as follows:

YEAS (9)

Chairman Ford
Senator Pell
Senator Inouye
Senator DeConcini
Senator Moynihan
Senator Dodd
Senator Adams
Senator Stevens
Senator Warner

NAYS (0)

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